NUMB. XLVIII.

The GUARDIAN.

Wednesday, May 6. 1713.

IT is the general Opinion, that Madam *Maintenon* has of late Years influenced all the Measures of the Court of *France*. The King, when he has taken the Air after Dinner, never fails of going to sit with her till about Ten a-Clock; at which time he leaves her to go to his Supper. The Comptroller-General of the Finances likewise comes to her Apartments to meet the King: While they are in Discourse Madam *Maintenon* sits at her Wheel towards the other end of the Room, not seeming to give the least Attention to what is said. Nevertheless, the Minister never makes a Proposition to the King, but his Majesty turns towards her, and says, *What think you, Madam, of This?* She expresses her Opinion after a modest manner; and whatsoever she says is done. Madam *Maintenon* never appears in Publick, except when she goes with the King to take the Air; and then she sits on the same Seat with the King, with her Spectacles on, working a Piece of Embroidery, and does not seem to be so much as sensible of the great Fortunes and Honours to which she has raised her self. She is always very modestly Dress't, and never appears with any Train of Servants. Every Morning she goes to St. *Cyr*, to give her Orders there, it being a kind of Nursery founded by herself for the Education of young Ladies of good Families, but no Fortune. She returns from thence about the time the King rises, who never fails to pay her a Morning Visit. She goes to Mass always by Break of Day, to avoid the Concourse of People. She is rarely seen by any, and almost inaccessible to every body, excepting three or four particular Acquaintance of her own Sex. Whether it be, that she would by this Conduct avoid Envy, as some think; or, as others would have it, that she is afraid the Rank which she thinks due to her, should be disputed in all Visits and Publick Places, is doubtful. It is certain, that upon all Occasions she declines the taking of any Rank; and the Title of *Marquisse* (which belongs to the Lands the King purchased for her) is suppressed before her Name; neither will she accept of the Title of a Dutchess, aspiring in all probability at something still higher, as will appear by what follows.

From several Particulars in the Conduct of the *French* King, as well as in that of Madam *Maintenon*, it has for some Years been the prevailing Opinion of the Court, that they are married. And, it is said, that her Ambition of being declared Queen broke out at last; and that she was resolved to give the King no Quiet till it was done. He for some time resisted all her Sollicitations upon that Head; but, at length, in a Fit of Tenderness and Good-nature, he promised her, that he would consult his Confessor upon that Point. Madam *Maintenon* was pleased with this, not doubting but that Father *la Chaise* would be glad of this Occasion of making his Court to her; but he was too subtle a Courtier not to perceive the Danger of engaging in so nice an Affair; and for that reason evaded it, by telling the King, that he did not think himself a Casuist able enough to decide a Question of so great importance; and for that reason desired he might consult with some Man of Skill and Learning, for whose Secrecy he would be responsible. The King was apprehensive least this might make the Matter too publick; but as soon as Father *la Chaise* named Monsieur *Fenelon*, the Archbishop of *Cambray*, his Fears were over; and he bid him go and find him out. As soon as the Confessor had communicated the Business he came upon, to the Bishop, he said, *What have I done, Father, that you should ruin me? But 'tis no matter; let us go the King.* His Majesty was in his Closet, expecting them. The Bishop was no sooner enter'd, but he threw himself at the King's Feet, and begged of him not to Sacrifice him; the King promised him that he would not; and then proposed the Case to him. The Bishop, with his usual Sincerity, represented to him the great Prejudice he would do himself by declaring his Marriage, together with the ill Consequences that might attend such a Proceeding. The King very much approved his Reasons, and resolved to go no farther in this Affair. Madam *Maintenon* still pressed him to comply with her; but it was now all to no purpose; and he told her, it was not a thing to be done. She asked him, if it was Father *La Chaise* who disswaded him from it. He for some time refused to give her any Answer; but at last, overcome by her Importunities, he told her every thing as it had passed. She upon this dissembled her Resentment, that she might be the more able to make it prove effectual. She did by no means think the Jesuit was to be forgiven; but the first

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(Price Two Pence.)